

Statement of Shared Action between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Martin Luther King Jr. County, State of Washington, United States of America.

WHEREAS, whole island nations, including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which are at an average height of seven feet above sea level, are at risk of being completely and permanently inundated in coming years by sea level rise brought on by global climate change; and

WHEREAS, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and most Pacific island nations, the people, agricultural land, tourist resorts and infrastructure, including roads and airports, are concentrated in coastal zones, and are thus especially vulnerable to any rise in sea level; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise and other global climate change impacts will continue to have negative consequences on health, tourism, freshwater availability and quality, aquaculture, agriculture, human settlements, biodiversity and financial services; and

WHEREAS, President Kessai Note and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have shown extraordinary leadership in international arenas such as the United Nations, by advocating for decisive global action to reduce the causes of global climate change, and developing practical strategies that help coastal areas adapt to its consequences; and

WHEREAS, King County, Washington Executive Ron Sims and the government of King County, Washington State, United States of America, are concerned about predicted sea level rise in Puget Sound, are at the forefront of regional governments across the world in developing practical strategies for reducing greenhouse gas pollution and adapting to climate change, and are soon publishing a guidebook for regional governments on how to adapt to climate change impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, President Kessai Note and King County Executive Ron Sims, on the 26th day of January, 2007, do hereby commit to:

- Developing a shared international network of action to help slow, stop and reverse the growth of greenhouse gas pollution and promote climate resilient policies for communities across the world;
- Sharing scientific, technical and management expertise on how to build climate resilient policies and communities; and
- Coordinating activities to advise for international and United States federal policy that supports these efforts.

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Kessai Note
President of the Republic of the
Marshall Islands